

## OBITUARY

### PROFESSOR JÁNOS MÉSZÁROS (20 May 1927 – 29 January 2018)



It is my extremely sad obligation to announce that Professor *János Mészáros*, full member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, our highly respected and beloved former editor-in-chief passed away on 29th January 2018. A certain consolation in the deep sorrow could be that, last May, his 90th birthday was worthily celebrated with the participation of a devoted audience representing a wide spectrum of Hungarian veterinary society.

I first met him as a veterinary student 45 years ago, when he was admired by me and the fellow students for his impressive, logical, well-focused lectures initially on the subjects of microbiology, then on epizootiology. One had to listen to his lectures from the beginning till the end because these were not only capturing the attention but most often also rather interactive. He was one of the last representatives of the school established by the great ancestors including Aladár Aujeszky and Rezső Manninger. He was a great professor, a strict but just examiner with a kind and collegial tone and touch of warm friendship, generally characteristic of veterinarians.

As a veterinary virologist, he started the laboratory diagnostics of foot-and-mouth disease in Hungary, and later, he earned an international reputation for organising research and vaccination programmes to establish the vaccination and defence against several infectious animal diseases (classical swine fever, brucellosis, mycoplasmosis, Newcastle disease), the eradication of bovine leukosis, and writing and editing Hungarian- and German-language epizootiology books.

He was the head of the Department of Microbiology and Epizootiology of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Budapest and the director of the Veterinary Medical Research Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences for 22 years. He was the president of the Hungarian Veterinary Poultry Association and the Hungarian Society for Microbiology for decades, and fulfilled important roles in the different Committees of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

He was honoured with a very wide range of prestigious national prizes, got the Doctor Honoris Causa title from the Szent István University. He was a member of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and was elected into the Hall of Fame of the World Veterinary Poultry Association (WVPA).

During the 65-year history of *Acta Veterinaria Hungarica*, János Mészáros served as editor-in-chief for 36 years. He became a member of the editorial board in 1960, and retired at the age of 86 only. As editor-in-chief, he was keen to increase the scientific level of our journal continuously.

This is the sorrowful time to say a final goodbye to our beloved former editor-in-chief, professor, teacher, friend and colleague. János Mészáros lived a beautiful, long and full life with outstanding professional achievements and a loving and caring wife and family.

His soul stays with us. We will remember his friendly attitude filled with humour and empathy.

*Balázs Harrach*  
editor-in-chief